

than 15.0 percent of the labor force was employed in manufacturing in Wayne County. This was more than 10.0 percent behind the state and national averages. Since 1960 many manufacturing jobs have been added, but it is doubtful that they have kept pace with the increase in population. Therefore, it is imperative that more manufacturing firms be secured for the County. The industrial "mix" of the manufacturing is reasonably well diversified and should withstand most national recessions without any serious repercussions for the county's employment.

The amount of income provided by governmental activities in Wayne County makes it second only to agriculture. Most people are not aware of how vital Seymour-Johnson, Cherry Hospital, and O'Berry Center are to the county's economic health. This type of industry, coupled with a strong agricultural economy, has been the real economic base of Wayne County in the past. When a strong and diversified manufacturing base becomes a reality, Wayne County will have a heretofore unknown, strong economy. No matter how remote the possibility may, the loss of either of the two governmental activities would have serious financial repercussions on the economy of Wayne County. However, the procurement of a wide variety of manufacturing industries into the county would offset most of the difficulties if such a loss was to occur.